## Sustainable INL News

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

Volume 2 • Issue 7 April 2011

## **How big is our Footprint?**

NL's carbon footprint, also called a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, is a systematic approach to account for the production and release of direct emissions generated directly by INL, as well as the indirect (or shared) emissions that are a consequence of INL's external activities.

INL has many reasons to calculate its GHG emissions. First, INL is committed to sustainability and a carbon footprint is an accepted method to identify environmental impacts.

Secondly, INL has a desire to see how its emissions compare with similar institutions, including other DOE laboratories. Finally, Executive Order 13514 requires that federal institutions report their GHG emissions, starting with a 2008 baseline.

INL's GHG inventory was calculated according to federal GHG guidance. The FY08 baseline found that INL generated 113,050 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent (MT CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions. And the FY09

and FY10 inventories showed an 8.4 and 9.4% decrease, respectively, over the FY08 baseline. The following conclusions were made based on the results of INL's GHG inventory:

- Electricity is the largest contributor, with over 50% of the emissions
- Other sources with high emissions were facility fuels, waste disposal, fleet vehicles, and employee commute
- Sources with low emissions were wastewater treatment and fugitive emissions from refrigerants.

The total GHG emissions generated by the Laboratory during the FY08 baseline are

equivalent to the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from driving 22,170 passenger vehicles for a year. And in FY09, despite increasing employee numbers and a greater business volume, INL took the equivalent of 1,800 vehicles off the road, and another 230 in FY10.

For more information on INL's GHG inventory, check out the following reports: INL's GHG FY08 Baseline (INL/EXT-10-19264) and INL's GHG FY09 & FY10 Report (INL/EXT-10-20747).

In addition to requiring reporting of GHG emissions, Executive Order 13514 mandates reductions of 28% for direct emissions and 13% for indirect emissions by 2020. This

means that the Laboratory is still required to take the equivalent of another 3,000 vehicles off the road over the next 10 years.

Currently, INL is evaluating strategies to implement that will contribute to the goals. Watch for the GHG Reduction Strategy that will be released this summer.

## Sustainable INL Program

Chris Ischay 208-526-4382 christopher.ischay@inl.gov

Ernest Fossum
208-526-2513
ernest.fossum@inl.gov

We're on the Web! www.inl.gov/sustainable

## A comparison of INL's Carbon Footprint from FY08-FY10

